

television. The road to the Frozen Four can be difficult and demanding. I say "can be difficult" only because—well, the Bulldogs made it look somewhat easy.

In convincing fashion, the Bulldogs defeated Michigan State 5 to 0 and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities 3 to 1 to earn their first Frozen Four bid since 1985. Against arch-rival Minnesota-Twin Cities, the Bulldogs stuck to a solid game plan, scored timely goals, and received phenomenal goaltending from Isaac Reichmuth, who also should be recognized for his stellar shut-out of Michigan State.

While absent 19 years from the Frozen Four, the Bulldogs appearance in this year's Frozen Four is no surprise. After finishing the season 28-12-4, and placing second in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association, the Bulldogs earned the second seed in the Midwest Regional of the NCAA tournament.

They are coached by Scott Sandelin. Coach Sandelin is a finalist for the Spencer Penrose Award, the official award of the NCAA for Division I coach of the year, and recently received Inside-college-hockey's award for Coach of the Year.

On the ice, the Bulldogs have been led all year by Hobey Baker finalist Junior Lessard, who currently leads the Nation in goals and scoring. Lessard has also racked up two prestigious Player of the Year awards by Inside-college-hockey and U.S. College Hockey Online.

On the blue line, the Bulldogs are led by first team WCHA all-conference selection Beau Geisler, and as I mentioned before, Isaac Reichmuth, himself a second team all conference selection, has been unbeatable in the pipes for the Bulldogs.

The Bulldog ice-hockey tradition runs deep. The program has placed over 34 of its student-athletes into the National Hockey League over the past 35 years. Thanks to Bulldog legends such as Curt Giles, Pat Boutette, Brett Hull, Chris Marinucci, Derek Plante, and Shjon Podein, Minnesota-Duluth is one of the premier hockey schools in the Nation and a source of deep pride for Duluth and all of Minnesota.

These young men, 15 of whom are native Minnesotans, are continuing this tradition of excellence and deserve the recognition and excitement that is accompanying their trip to the Frozen Four. Charter buses of Minnesotans have made the long trek to Beantown to cheer on their team and I, like them, look forward to a great matchup between the Bulldogs and the University of Denver tomorrow in Boston.

Congratulations to the University of Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs for what has been a stellar season, and best wishes on their ongoing quest for the national championship.

GEORGIA TECH'S RAMBLIN WRECK MAKES GEORGIA PROUD

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I want to extend my congratulations to

Georgia Institute of Technology for the incredible performance of the Yellow Jackets basketball team this year. Georgia Tech proved itself to be a national power as it won game after game on its way to the NCAA final game.

I join all Georgians in admiration of the Yellow Jackets Head Coach Paul Hewitt, and his assistants Dean Keener, Willie Reese, and Cliff Warren for building a program which proved itself in national competition. I also want to congratulate the players who showed leadership, poise and class as they played great basketball against the best teams in the country.

Georgia Tech is an important educational institution. Tech graduates lead the way in every aspect of the business and professional community in America. Its graduates are in high demand around the world for their skills and abilities. Its sports programs are also very well regarded.

The reputation of the Ramblin Wreck's athletic program can only grow higher after this appearance in the NCAA tournament. When the season began, Georgia Tech was picked to finish seventh in the nine-team Atlantic Coast Conference. Instead it made it to its first Final Four appearance since 1990 and its first title game ever.

I salute the 2003-2004 Georgia Tech basketball team for a great year. They have made all of Georgia proud.

RE-OPENING I-95 IN CONNECTICUT

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today in praise of the exemplary efforts of the construction and maintenance crews, engineers, and State and Federal transportation officials to quickly re-open Interstate 95 in Bridgeport, Connecticut, last week after a devastating fire destroyed a portion of the highway. On behalf of the people of Connecticut, I offer them my deepest thanks for the hard work—and teamwork—that has restored a vital artery in our nation's transportation system faster than anyone thought possible.

On Thursday evening, March 25, a car and a tanker truck collided while traveling along I-95 South in Bridgeport. The tanker truck, carrying 12,000 gallons of home heating oil, tipped over and slid along the barriers before stopping and, minutes later, the truck's contents ignited, sending flames 50 to 60 feet into the air. Remarkably, no one was killed or injured in the accident, and within 20 minutes firefighters had extinguished the blaze, but the damage had been done. Both the existing southbound bridge and a new bridge that had just been built alongside of it were severely damaged.

I-95 in Connecticut—a traffic corridor of national significance that links New York City with Boston—was immediately shut down in both directions over a distance spanning several exits. This caused major traffic problems, especially for tractor-trailer drivers. Engineers determined that the northbound overpass could be shored

up and made structurally sound again, and additional supports were erected to reinforce the northbound span, which was reopened to traffic on Sunday night, March 28. The southbound lanes, however, were beyond easy repair, and engineers concluded that a temporary bridge would have to be erected to support traffic on the southbound span of the highway. A temporary bridge was supplied by Acrow Corp of Carlstadt, N.J. It arrived in pieces and was assembled by crews from the Connecticut Department of Transportation, DeMatteo Construction, and Brunalli Construction. By Sunday morning, the skeleton of the temporary bridge had been fully assembled. A steel deck was then laid on top of it and the surface was paved. The southbound lanes of I-95 were reopened on Wednesday morning at 3:30 a.m.

Approximately 120,000 vehicles pass over this span of I-95 every day, and officials initially estimated that the highway would be closed for three to four weeks. But the crews that performed the work managed to re-open it in just five days. This accomplishment cannot be overstated. I rise today to say thank you to the Connecticut DOT employees, Federal DOT officials, contractors and others who worked around the clock to make it possible. Your service to our State is deeply appreciated, and we commend you for your excellent work.

HONORING JACK SMITH

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Jack Smith, distinguished Vietnam veteran and former ABC News Correspondent. Jack Smith died on April 7 at the age of 58 at a hospital in Greenbrea, CA. He had been struggling with cancer for the past year.

Jack had a long and successful career as a Washington-based reporter for ABC News. He covered foreign wars, five presidential elections, and hosted numerous shows and documentaries. His thoughtful reporting and dedication to journalism ranks Jack Smith high in the history of news reporters.

Jack was wounded during the 1965 battle of Ia Drang Valley. He was decorated with the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart for his bravery. His experiences in the Vietnam War prompted him to speak and report extensively on the war and its aftermath. He was a man of great integrity who never faltered on his commitment to demonstrate accurately and honestly the historic events of our time.

Jack Smith leaves behind his wife, Pamela Pepper; a son, Alexander Smith; two stepchildren, Aidan McTighe and Matthew McTighe; his mother, Benedicte Smith; and a sister. Jack was the son of legendary reporter Howard K. Smith.

For his service to his country during the Vietnam War and excellence in journalism, I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring Jack Smith.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRITTNEY MORASKI

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize my Senate page today, Brittney Moraski of Bark River, MI, for achieving highest honors at the Senate Page School. Brittney's hard work earned her a 4.0 grade point average this semester, the highest in her class.

Highest honors are nothing new for Brittney. At home in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Brittney attends Bark River-Harris High School where she is a member of the National Honor Society and also maintains a 4.0 G.P.A. Brittney took advanced placement classes in U.S. Government and Politics and microeconomics and achieved the highest score possible on both A.P. exams. In addition, Brittney has taken college classes at Bay de Noc Community College. Brittney was the first Bark River-Harris High School student to earn the highest endorsement level possible on the senior-level Michigan Educational Assessment Program test as a sophomore.

Complementing her school year work, Brittney has participated in activities that further nurtured her lifelong interest in government and politics. Last summer, Brittney spent three weeks in Washington as part of the Junior Statesmen Summer School at Georgetown University where she took a course on foreign policy and had the opportunity to meet with high-ranking officials in the Congress, State Department, Pentagon, White House and French Embassy.

In addition to her exemplary academic achievements, Brittney stands out for her community involvement. She is the president of the Bark River-Harris Key Club and serves on the Community Foundation of Delta County's Youth Advisory Committee. During the past three years, she traveled to Honduras to volunteer at a soup kitchen, distribute food and clothing, and read and play with Honduran children.

Brittney brings her idealism and achievements to her duties as a Senate page. In her application for the page program, Brittney wrote, "I would not only grow as a student of government from the experience, but I would grow as an individual and as a potential future public servant." Later in her application, Brittney said, "I believe in the U.S. government and in American values, and I would be honored to serve as a page in the epicenter of American lawmaking, the U.S. Congress."

Mr. President, Brittney Moraski exemplifies all that is best in the Senate Page Program and in our young people, and I congratulate her on her outstanding achievements.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF JUDITH OLIVER

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to Judith Oliver, Director of The Children's Room Center for Grieving Children and Teenagers in Arlington, MA.

Ms. Oliver has dedicated her professional life to aiding children and families who suffer the loss of a family member. A week from tomorrow, the Center will celebrate its fifth anniversary with a dinner and an auction, and she will be presented with an eminently well-deserved award for excellence.

Ms. Oliver became Director of The Children's Room in 1992, when it was a program at Hospice West in Waltham. She organized it as an independent charity in 1999, and since then it has grown from helping a group of ten children to serving over a hundred children and sixty families.

Today, The Children's Room is a beacon of hope and help for bereaved children and others in their family. It provides a safe and caring environment where children, teenagers and their families can obtain the support they need in grieving over the death of their loved ones.

Ms. Oliver's extraordinary caring, compassion, and dedication are the hallmarks of her career. In many ways, she's a pioneer in this very important field. She earned a Master's Degree in Counseling at Loyola College in Baltimore, with an internship in grief counseling at Hospice of the Chesapeake in Maryland and at Grandma's House, a Washington, D.C. home for children with AIDS.

As we all know, the need for these counseling services is especially great today, Judith Oliver's leadership is a model for all communities. Massachusetts is proud of her. We're fortunate to have her, and I join her many admirers in congratulating her on this award.●

OREGON VETERANS

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, today I rise to honor an Oregon veteran who answered the call of duty in service to his country. Grover Judd Killpack was born on January 24, 1924 in a small mining town called Mohrland, close to Price, UT.

Judd's military career began in October of 1943, when he entered the Coast Guard as a Seaman Apprentice. He was assigned to the USS *Callaway*, an attack transport ship that fought in the Pacific theater during World War II. While on the *Callaway*, he ran one of the landing boats, transporting the soldiers to the fight and returning the wounded to the ship. He participated in six invasions in the Pacific, including the Battle for Leyte Gulf and the Battle for Iwo Jima. Judd watched as the Marines took control of the island and raised the flag on Mount Suribachi; a

scene immortalized in the now-famous monument in Arlington, VA.

After his tour of duty ended in May of 1946, he left the Coast Guard as a petty officer 3rd class and went home to Price, UT where he married Eva Milkovich. He attended Carbon College where he focused his studies in the dairy field. He demonstrated his leadership skills as the student body president. He transferred to Utah State University where he participated in the ROTC program and received his degree in Dairy Technology. During this time Judd and Eve were blessed with a son and a daughter.

Judd took a sales job that led him and his family to Denver, CO. One day before his tour was over, his country called for his services once again. He answered that call, leaving for the Korean War as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army in January of 1952. During his short time in the conflict he served as an artillery observer flying over enemy lines to direct friendly fire on communist targets. He came home for good in November of 1952 as a 1st Lieutenant.

A new job opportunity brought Judd and his family to the northwest. They stayed in Seattle, WA until January of 1955. They found their permanent home in Beaverton, OR and the Killpack family has lived there since that day.

Judd went on to be a sales rep for the R&H Company in 1961 and spent the rest of his working days with them, finally retiring in 1986. Judd has been married to Eve since July 3, 1946 and has two children, five grandchildren, and one great grandchild on the way.

For his selfless service to others, and to the United States in time of war, I salute Grover Judd Killpack as an Oregon Veteran hero.●

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, this week is National Public Health Week, an annual event sponsored by the American Public Health Association or APHA. Every year in April, national, State and local public health professionals highlight an important public health issue, to raise awareness about leading health problems impacting our nation. This year, the theme of National Public Health Week is "eliminating health disparities".

There are many groups that experience disparities in health, largely a result of limited access to important health care services. Living in a rural area is in itself a health risk factor, due to numerous factors that can adversely influence health and access and the resulting disparities are well documented. Chronic illnesses are more prevalent in rural communities and studies have shown that rural residents are more likely to describe their overall health status as poorer than their urban counterparts. Limitation in activity due to chronic health conditions among adults is more common in rural counties than in large metro counties.